

Aggies rise and fall to Owls

DOUG FOSTER
Sportswriter

Kareem, Dr. J rekindle magic of NBA's past

Of all the sporting events that will be covered in all the papers in all of creation this weekend, one of the most intriguing matchups scheduled probably won't even be included in the sports pages.

In fact, if you want to know what happens in this contest, you'll have to call the cable company and pay to watch it.

No, it's not an overpriced boxing match.

It's the Sixers versus the Lakers again, like it used to be. Or rather a Sixer and a Laker. It's Julius "Dr. J." Erving taking against Kareem Abdul Jabbar in a one-on-one matchup of the ghosts of basketball past.

This game may be a complete bust. Nobody in the entire country may pay to see it. But one thing is for sure, anyone who does watch it is sure to enjoy it.

And don't think it won't be a good game. Forget that Jabbar is 7-foot-2 and has seven inches on Erving. Forget that he is the NBA's all-time leading scorer. All of that may not be enough. That's because he's playing the man who did things that many people called "magic" long before anyone had heard of Earvin Johnson.

Dr. J's talents were beyond description. He did things in mid-flight with the basketball that no one since, excluding Michael Jordan, has come close to. And even many of Jordan's highlights are variations of patented Erving moves.

Of course, that high-flying ability

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Brown keys A&M offense to 73-72 victory over Rice

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

Texas A&M center Yolanda Brown didn't get what she wanted Wednesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum, but A&M coach Lynn Hickey did.

Brown wanted a blowout against the Rice Owls. Hickey just wanted a win.

Vanessa Edwards' layup with 14 seconds left in the game led the Aggies past Rice, 73-72. The last time the two teams met, Rice won in overtime.

"It was very, very important that we pull this game out," Hickey said. "A month ago when things like this were happening we dropped it. We were able to hold on tonight."

"I'm just glad to get out of this game with a win."

Brown, who led all scorers with a career-high 24 points, was hoping to get an easier game from the Owls.

"We came out tonight, and we really wanted revenge," Brown said. "We went down to Rice, and they shocked us. We were hoping for a blowout."

A&M improved to 7-5 in Southwest Conference play and 15-10 overall. The Owls fall to 3-8 and 11-13.

The Lady Aggies were leading by 12 points with 16 minutes to play in the game, but Rice fought its way back behind the shooting of Andrea Prater and Evenda Barnes. Prater scored 15 of her team-high 21 points in the second half, and Barnes scored 12 of her 18 points in the second half.

Prater, the Owls' third leading scorer, was sidelined with an injury when the two teams met earlier in

the season. "Prater) shot extremely well tonight," Hickey said. "She didn't play last time, and we tried to explain to the kids what she was capable of doing."

Brown scored six of A&M's first 12 points and had nine rebounds for the night.

"In the first half, I felt my shot was on, and I felt real confident putting the ball up," Brown said.

A&M guard Sheri Dillard said the victory was hard fought.

"I think the intensity was really strong for both teams," Dillard said. "It ended up being a battle for both teams."

Dillard scored 12 points and had four assists. Shawn Medlock led the Aggies with 10 assists.

A&M was trailing by three points midway through the first half but came back to lead, 37-28, at intermission.

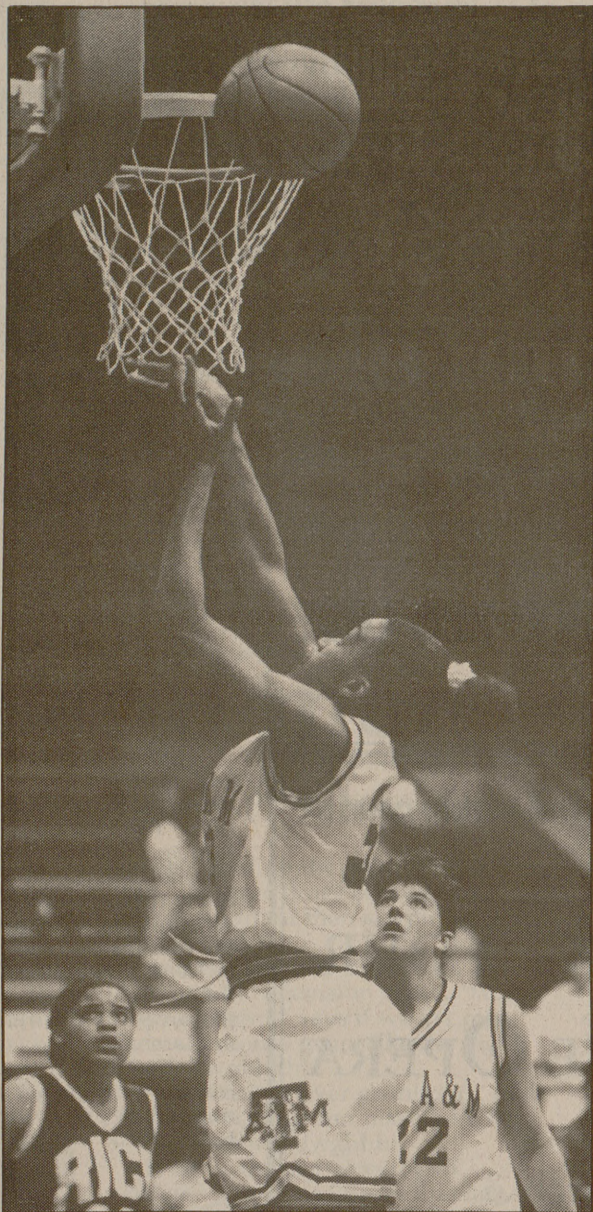
"The first half was a good effort," Hickey said. "I thought we did a lot of really good things. In the second half, Yolanda Brown saved our tails tonight. She really put on a show."

Hickey said A&M has to be more aggressive to keep winning.

"We played so tentatively (in the second half)," she said. "Rice controls the tempo of the game so well. Instead of attacking offensively, we were just standing around."

"They play an outstanding zone where they don't really pressure you. They just stand in the passing lanes, and we're not real good about reading the floor. We're kind of a set pattern team."

"Rice is a team you have to play freelance. Then I thought we played like we were afraid to lose. You can't play that way. You have to go out and put it away."



ROBERT REED/The Battalion

A&M freshman forward Twylanna Harrison scores in the first half of the Lady Aggies' 73-72 defeat of the Rice Owls Wednesday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Late A&M rally comes up short; Rice wins 77-70

From Staff and Wire Reports

HOUSTON — Texas A&M's attempt to win two straight Southwest Conference games was quickly thwarted by the Rice Owls Wednesday night.

Brent Scott scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds as Rice built a 19-point lead and then held on for a 77-70 victory over the young Aggies.

Rice (18-9 and 6-5 in Southwest Conference), dominated much of the game before A&M's David Edwards sparked a late rally.

Edwards led the Aggies (5-18, 1-9 in SWC play) with a career-high 27 points, 25 in the second half. Chuck Henderson added 18 and Corey Henderson 11 for A&M.

The Aggies haven't won two straight SWC games in more than two years.

A&M coach Tony Barone was disappointed with his team's first-half play.

"I thought in the first half that we were destroyed inside," Barone said. "They out-rebounded us 20-to-11 in the first 20 minutes."

"We made some adjustments in the second half and we were much more aggressive."

Dana Hardy had 16 points and seven assists while Adam Peakes and Marvin Moore had 11 each for Rice.

Rice opened up a 19-point edge, 46-27, with 16:25 left in the second half. But A&M chipped away at the lead until a 3-point basket by Edwards with 3:42 left cut the deficit to 67-58.

The Aggies, however, could get no closer than seven points the rest of the way.

Rice took a 24-11 lead with 9:26 left in the first half, outscoring the Aggies 12-2 during one stretch.

The Owls led 37-21 at the half.

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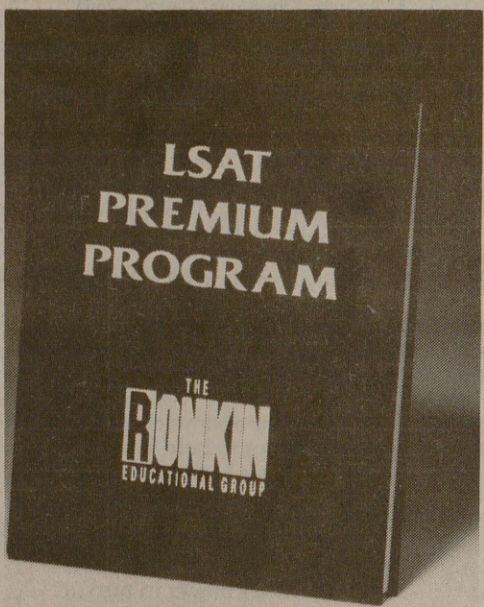
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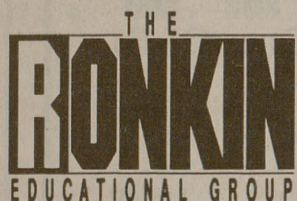
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